

75. An optical apparatus according to claim 71, wherein the XZ-plane passes through the vertex of said second surface and is perpendicular to the tangent at the vertex.

76. An optical apparatus according to claim 72, wherein the XZ-plane passes through the vertex of said second surface and is perpendicular to the tangent at the vertex.

77. An optical apparatus according to claim 73, wherein the XZ-plane passes through the vertex of said second surface and is perpendicular to the tangent at the vertex.--

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 77 are pending, with Claims 1, 9, 11, 15, 19, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 46, 51, 56, and 57 being independent. Claims 1 through 26 were allowed. Claims 27 through 77 have been added. The specification has been amended to attend to formal matters.

In accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.607(c), the Examiner is respectfully advised that newly added Claims 27 through 77 have been copied exactly or in modified form from Claims 1, 2, 4 through 22, and 24 through 33 of U.S. Patent No. 5,701,202 to Koichi Takahashi (the "'202 Patent"), issued on August 19, 1997, and assigned to Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.

Applicants have copied the claims from the '202 Patent for the purpose of provoking an interference with that patent. Support for the copied claims and the identification of a proposed count for the interference will be submitted in a separate Request for Interference which will be filed in due course. In the meantime, if the Examiner reaches this case for action prior to receipt of the Request for Interference, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned before acting on the subject application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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